for overall policy formulation and coordination of vocational education programmes.

(c) and (d) So far two meetings of JCVE have been held on 8-8-90 and 6-1-1993. Various important issues relating to vocational education were discussed in these meetings. The Council supported the multi-pronged action for improving the quality of vocational education during the 8th Plan.

Condition of Museums in the Country

1439. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 18th January, 1993 regarding the poor conditions of the museums in the country; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to remove the deficiences and improve the workings?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The majority of the measures mentioned in the news-item are either private museums or State museums. In so far as the museums that are with the Central Government as far as possible, adequate care is being taken. A scheme is also in existence for financial assistance to private museums and museums under the various universities. In so far as state museums are concerned like Madras Museum, Mathura Museum etc., the State Governments are responsible for their upkeep and maintenance. In the Eighth Plan, a new scheme has also been introduced for setting up and maintenance of museums depicting regional and local culture.

Book Exhibitions

1440. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of book exhibitions sponsored by Government and semi-Governmental agencies during the last threeyears together with the details in this regard and financial assistance extended for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): The major Government agency concerned with book publication is the Publications Division of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry and the principal semi-Government agency for Book Promotion is the National Book Trust. According to information furnished by Information & Broadcasting Ministry the Publications Division has not sponsored any book exhibition by other agencies during the last 3 years. As regards National Book Trust the Trust had sponsored 3 book Fairs/Festivals with financial implication of Rs. 2.17 lakhs and 210 Book Exhibitions with the financial implication of Rs. 7.64 lakh during the calender year 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Equal Opportunities of Education to the SC/ST Students

1441. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the measures being taken by Government to remove the educational disparities and provide equal opportunities of education for the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Some of the measures being taken by the Central and State Governments to remove educational disparities and provide equal opportunities of education for the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are:

—Opening of Schools, Non-Formal Education Centres, Adult Education Centres in areas of concentration of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

—Provision of incentives like freeships, scholarships, free uniforms, mid-day meals etc.

—Central assistance to States for construction of hostel and Ashram schools for SC|ST students.

—Reservation of seats in educational institutions.

—Remedial and special coaching to improve the merit of SC|ST students and to enable them to compete in competitive examinations.

बिहार में आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ता

1442. **श्री गया सिंह** : क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार में आंगनबाड़ी कार्यक्रम के अधीन कितने लोगों को नियोजित किया गया है ;

(ख) इन आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं में महिलाओं एवं पुरुषों की संख्या कितनी-कितनी है ; और

(ग) कितने कार्यकर्ता प्रशिक्षित हैं और कितने अप्रशिक्षित हैं ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (महिला तथा बाल विकास विभाग) में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती बासव राजेश्वरी) : (क) 31-12-1992 की स्थिति अनुसार, बिहार में आई. सी. डी. एस. कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन कार्य में 183 बाल विकास परियोजना अधिकारी/सहायक बाल विकास परियोजना अधिकारी, 873 सुपरवाइजर, 20138 आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता और 20138 सहायिकायें कार्यरत हैं ।

(ख) सभी 20138 कार्यकर्ता महिला आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ता हैं ।

(ग) सितम्बर, 1992 की स्थिति अनुसार, बिहार में 13239 प्रशिक्षित और 6899 अप्रशिक्षित आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ता हैं ।

Failure of Vocation Courses

1443. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Time' dated 15th February, 1993 captioned 'Vocational courses a failure';

(b) if so, when the vocational courses were introduced and whether the achievements made in this regard are commensurate to the investments, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce 'REALISTIC vocational courses from the academic year 1993-94, if so, the details thereof and funds likely to be allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): According to the information furnished by UGC, the Commisison does not prescribe any courses of study in the universities. Such courses are prescribed by the universities themselves. UGC, however, provides financial assistance to eligible universities, in accordance with the prescribed norms, for restructuring of under.graduate courses in Arts, Social.Sciences and Sciences to link them with work field practical experience and productivity. The Commission also provides assistance for introduction of courses in Computer Science; electronics; Home Science; Management and Mass-Media Communication which equip the students with vocational skills.

UGC has appointed an Export Committee to identify vocational courses